

Subject: Netscape Update (11/28/00) - long

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Organization: NOAA/OAR

To: _OAR Netscape Admins <netscape@oar.noaa.gov>

CC: _OAR TCCR GROUP <tccr@oar.noaa.gov>

Newsgroups: oar.netscape

I figure by now you're all sick of these weekly netscape updates. Unfortunately, I'm going to have to keep sending them out. Eventually, I'd like for everyone to be able to get them from the newsgroup (<news://neptune.nos.noaa.gov/oar.netscape>), but right now I think it's best to keep sending them out via e-mail since I'm not sure if you all check the newsgroup yet.

Here are the issues discussed at the MCB meeting on 11/28/00, the usual caveats apply (i.e. these aren't exact minutes, but only summaries of the issues relevant to OAR).

1) Netscape 6.0 - The MCB is going to issue a statement that people are not to use Netscape 6.0. The highest version that is supported is 4.75. The current version of 6.0 does not support LDAP functionality. LDAP functionality will be supported in a future release of Netscape 6.x.

2) MCB Webpages - They're going to make an effort to reorganize their information, consolidate and redesign. Hopefully it'll be more useful after that, but this isn't a high priority project so it's going to take a while. In the meantime would it be helpful for me to host a bunch of the NEMS information on a server here at HQ so that there is one place to go to get netscape admin info within OAR?

3) Netscape Admin Workshop - Looks like there will be a post-migration admin workshop in the spring sometime. Chances are all 260 NOAA mail admins will be invited out here to Silver Springs (you'll have to pay for travel yourself though). We're still in the early discussion stages - it might be a better idea to hold one workshop in Silver Spring and one in Boulder or for each LO to hold their own workshop. Basically we'd talk tech issues and do some networking with other admins. Is this a good idea, bad idea? Would people come if we held it, yes, no, maybe?

4) Mail Relay - The first of the mail relays will be installed on Monday the 11th at 7:00am and the MX record for the mailhub will be changed to direct to the mail relay first and the mailhub second. The second mail relay will go in on Feb 2nd (at which point the mailhub will be taken out of the MX record - see below). Another very nice feature that the new Mail Relay will provide is virus scanning. All mail passing through the Mail Relay (everyone with an @noaa.gov address) will have their messages scanned for viruses.

5) Deadlines!!!!

Mar. 15th - Mailhub is powered down.

Feb. 2nd - Mailhub is taken out of the MX record so it is no longer used for any mail functions.

Jan. 7th - Mailhub directory will only sync with LDAP directory, no more X.500 uploads permitted.

(All NOAA users must be in an LDAP directory)

Dec. 31st - All OAR users must be in the LDAP directory.

Please try to get all of your people into the LDAP directory by December 31st. All that needs to be done to move a user into the

directory is to change their mailhost to your local messaging server (example: box.al.noaa.gov), change the primary mail admin to your administrator (example: _OAR AL Mail Admin), and put in a forwarding address to their old mail account (example: user@oldserver.al.noaa.gov). If you need any help with this let me know.

If you do not have your users in the LDAP directory by Dec. 31st I will add them into the Netscape directory for you using the OAR headquarters messaging server (ms-oartest.oar.noaa.gov) so that OAR can make the January 7th deadline. Any changes to user accounts, creation of new users, and deletion of old users will need to be done through the NEMS directory after January 7th. If I add you to the server here then you'll need to talk to me to have changes made to the directory. Hopefully, everyone will be able to get their users in the directory by the 31st.

6) Anonymous Directory Access - On December 31st anonymous access to the directory will be restricted to allow only certain user information to be visible. All anonymous access to the directory will be able to view only user accounts (no groups, resources, or special users). In addition, the only attributes that are viewable for users are: Name, E-mail Address, Street Address, City, State, Zip, Telephone, and Line Office. If you are authenticated to the directory with an account then nothing will change for you from how it is currently setup.

7) Function accounts - At the request of one of the labs we discussed the idea of a new container for Functional accounts (rather than using the Person container). This issue had already been addressed by the MCB when they made the initial directory scheme, but we discussed making a modification to that scheme. The MOC had a number of technical reasons for this decision (some examples: they wanted a flat directory structure instead of a strict hierarchical one, they found it would be more useful to have a Function flag in each account rather than a container, one container consolidation for all accounts with @noaa.gov addresses, one container for all entries with their own mailbox, etc). I got the feeling that this was a much discussed topic that had been thoroughly thought out and that it was probably best to leave the directory structure the way that it is.

However, from a practical point of view this means that aliasing old listserve account over to Netscape accounts has a couple of flaws. The biggest right now being that NOAA and DOC announcements are being sent out the listserver functional accounts (and from there to all of the members of the lists whether they're NOAA/DOC or not). The remedy for this is that once the Mailhub goes away those announcement lists will be LDAP and will exclude any entries that are functions (using the function flag). Until that happens the only thing to do is put your listserver lists under a separate host than your netscape mail host. Use your old mail server to continue to host the lists and don't migrate listserver accounts. If you have to migrate list accounts (for example your old host name is the same as your new netscape host name) then you can put the listserver entries into the directory, but they will get the DOC/NOAA announcements until the mailhub goes down (see deadlines above) or you can convert your listserver list into an LDAP group.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to e-mail me - I'm trying to get feedback on any Netscape issues that you might have so that I can bring them to the MCB if necessary. I will post this message to the newsgroup so there is a record of it there as well for discussion.

thanks,

Jeremy

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